an increase. The price of Bajra, Milk, Fish, Kerosene, Bulbs and Salt have shown a decline and the prices of Coke, Atta and Safety Matches have remained steady. The rise in the prices of some commodities are due to gap in the supply and demand, routine lean period of supply, inability of the Government to import edible oils and pulses and difficulties in the movement of goods through rails.

(c) The present Government attaches highest priority to contain price rise within reasonable limits. Efforts are being made to restrain the growth in money supply, effect economy in Government expenditure, ensure better supply and demand management of 'sensitive commodities', strengthening and streamlining of Public Distribution System, strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term. With a view to monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. It is expected that all these measures will have a desirable effect on containing the rising trend in the prices within reasonable limits.

Price trend of essential commodities

144. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the weekwise price trend in respect of essential commodities like edible oil, sugar, vegetable, tea etc. during the last two months; and

(b) what measures have been taken to control the price trend and what has been the response thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A statement showing the weekly percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities for the last two months (8-6-91 to 10-8-91) is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLX, Annexure No. 4].

(b) The present Government attaches the highest priority to contain price rise within reasonable limits. Efforts are being made to restrain the growth in money supply, effect economy in Government expenditure and ensure better supply and demand management of 'sensitive commodities', strengthening and streamlining of Public Distribution System, strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term with a view to monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. As a result of these measures, the prices of some of the items like Kerosene, Bulbs, Fish, Sugar, Gram, Bajra etc. have shown a decline in recent weeks and that of Coke, Atta, Vanaspati and Safety Matches have remained steady.

Failure of STC in Purchasing Newsprint

145. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the burden of Rs. 60